prevailing market condition. Government have initiated steps to take care of the surplus products, if any, in view of increase in domestic refining capacity.

(c) and (d) LDO is a freely traded commodity in the international market and its export destination is decided by market consideration.

Indigenous oil production

2411. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that indigenous oil production has been more or less static at 33 mmt per annum;

(b) whether the efforts to step up production from the existing wells have not been successful;

(c) whether no more major discoveries have been made in spite of heavy expenses on exploration; and

(d) the prospects of a substantial growth in domestic production in view of the soaring demand in the ocuntry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) During the three years of the IXth Plan period, the crude oil production from National Oil Companies (NOCs) and private-joint venture fields are as under:—

(in MMT)

Year	Production
1997-98	33.858
1998-99	32.723
1999-2000	31.95
	(MMT: Million Metric Tonne)

(c) Several smalVmedium sized discoveries have been made during the last 3 years by ONGC and OIL and PrivatetfV sector

adding reserves of 178.19 Million Tonnes of Oil+oil equivalent of Gas (MMTOE).

The expenditure *on* exploration incurred by these companies during the above mentioned three years has been about Rs. 5342 crores.

(d) The prospects of substantial growth in domestic oil production will depend upon the degree of success of various steps being taken to increase the production as given hereunder:—

(i) Finding new hydrocarbon reserves through intensified exploration activities such as:

— Exploration at greater depths in existing fields.
— Extending exploration activities to deep waters and frontier areas.
— Increased private participation in exploration and production activities.

(ii) Faster development of newly discovered oilfields.

(iii) Optimizing production from existing field by better reservoir management through 3-D seismic surveys, infill drilling; better pressure maintenance by redistributing water injector, installatioiybptimization of artificial lift system and use of advanced & cost effective technologies for sand control, water shut off etc.

Petrol pumps and LPG dealerships to SC&STs

2412. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps and LPG dealerships allotted to SCs'STs during the last three years, till date, State-wise and Year-wise;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey so as to see whether these allotted agencies are being run by the candidates by themselves or on the .Power of Attorney basis;

(c) the number of such agencies being run on Power of Attorney basis; and